

Letter From The President

Over the past eight years, the Detroit Housing Commission has made significant progress, moving from a troubled to a transformed public housing agency. As President of the Board of Commissioners, it has been an honor to be a participant in that transformation, and I recognize the many contributors to the transformation. To the service-minded residents, dedicated staff and administration, and many committed partners in government including former Mayor Dennis W. Archer, the Detroit City Council and HUD, I thank you for your ideas, tireless work and perseverance.

The election of our new Mayor, Kwame M. Kilpatrick, offers an opportunity to reflect and build upon the success we have achieved. Our accomplishments are many, and one achievement stands out. As of the end of the year 2001, 44% of all occupied units have been comprehensively rehabilitated during the previous eight years. This means that the worst of what had been public housing is long gone, and that each day, in their homes, residents see firsthand the results of our work. Other accomplishments include improving our vacancy rate from 47 percent to a 5.6% adjusted vacancy rate, and reducing outstanding work orders from 11,000 to 3,082. DHC has also doubled the number of Section 8 vouchers/certificates awarded by HUD, and significantly improved our lease-up rate. Additionally, rent collections have increased in our assisted housing division. These are amazing improvements and we should all be proud of our work and commitment on behalf of DHC.

As we look forward we will continue modernizing the rest of the sites including the HOPE VI revitalization at Woodbridge Estates, Herman Gardens and the Villages at Parkside. As we develop these sites we will create mixed-income communities that the community at large can enjoy.

Together, our accomplishments have improved the lives of public housing residents as a whole. I look forward to working with our new Mayor and our public housing community as we continue the transformation of the Detroit Housing Commission.

Sincerely,

Lisa Webb Sharpe

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President

